

## Your own Web site? It's free and easy

### Register for training

☐ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Organization(s) you represent: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Address: (the home city and zip code) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Telephone: (work and home) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Current e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Type of computer you have: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ First choice for training session: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Second choice for training session: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_

If you've ever been surfing the World Wide Web and decided that everyone in the world has a Web site except you, here's your chance.

A new service being offered by the Observer Newspaper allows nonprofit community organizations to set up their own Web sites. And the best part is: it's easy and it's free.

"Mihometown.com is a new community Web site service designed to serve and promote community organizations in the state of Michigan," said Brian Roberto, manager of the Observer & Eccentric Enhanced Media Department. "We want mihometown.com to be a local hub for community information."

Using software developed by KOZ.com, the site allows organizations to set up sophisticated Web sites with just a few clicks of a mouse. You don't need to write code or know HTML. You simply connect to mihometown.com, click on "Create a New Site Now," and follow the on-screen instructions.

Training sessions are scheduled for 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16, and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 19, at CompUSA in the Novi Town Center. Each session will last two and a half hours, after which, Roberto said, you will be ready to set up your site.

The \$15 fee includes training, materials and refreshments. You can fill out the attached coupon and send a check payable to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers or register online with a credit card at this secure site <http://oeonline.com/mihometown> or call Jennifer Murray at (734) 953-2038 for more information. Space is limited.

After the brief training session, you can create a Web site complete with an online newsletter, a calendar of events, discussion groups and a live chat room. The site also includes a built-in search engine.



The sites can be customized by following on-screen instructions and can include graphics or pictures that you upload, feedback forms, and one-click e-mail to participants.

You can open your site to the public or password protect it so that only members or participants can access it. Or you can keep some areas public and make others private. It's all up to you.

Roberto said that while other services offer free Web sites, the mihometown.com site is able to serve community organizations and bring them all together on the main page. He compared that to the community news provided by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"We offer community news in our newspapers and our online services. Mihometown.com completes the service by offering groups the ability to promote themselves and by serving as a community resource for these groups."

The service is available for schools, PTAs, school clubs, libraries and government agencies, as well as such diverse organizations as churches, arts and culture groups, sports and recreation clubs and teams, alumni associations and so on.

Roberto said that groups that already have a Web site might want to set up another one through mihometown.com simply because of the sense of community of having many local sites accessible through one source.

"There's strength in numbers by combining many organizations in one place," he said. And he plans to promote the service through newspaper advertising and through the oeonline.com and observer-eccentric.com Web sites.

"The notion of 'Build your own Web site and they will come' is not working for many people," he said. "There are millions of sites out there and they aren't always easy to find."

## Athena Award nominations sought

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting nominations for the 1999 ATHENA Award. The chamber will host this special recognition program for the seventh year. The ATHENA Award celebrates an individual who pursues excellence in his/her business profession and service to the community as well as supports women in achieving their full leadership potential.

Eligible candidates of the ATHENA Award must meet each of the following criteria: demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their business of profession; provide a valuable service by

devoting time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community and assist women in reaching their full leadership potential. Candidates must also live or work in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

The 1999 ATHENA Award recipient will be honored at a dinner on Thursday, May 20, at the Botsford Inn. Tickets for this event are \$50 each. As a special tribute to the first ATHENA recipient in the Farmington area, the chamber will donate \$10 from each ticket sold to the Lynda Myanek Memorial Fund, established by Botsford Health Care Continuum.

## Mother's Day Buffet Features

Sunday, May 9 • 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- ◆ Omelette Station
- ◆ Assorted Breakfast Pastries
- ◆ Scrambled Eggs
- ◆ Bacon & Sausage
- ◆ Hash Browns
- ◆ Biscuits & Gravy
- ◆ Frangelico French Toast
- ◆ Corned Beef Hash
- ◆ Green Beans Almondine
- ◆ Candied Yams
- ◆ Mashed Potatoes
- ◆ Brown Gravy
- ◆ Baked Ham
- ◆ Salad Selections
- ◆ Dessert Display

Dinner Menu Served  
12 - 8 p.m.

RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED



Each Mom receives a complimentary Tomato Plant!

**\$15.95**  
**Adults**  
**\$7.95 Children**  
**Under 10**  
**Children**  
**Under 3**  
**FREE**



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248-258-5788



## CALENDAR

### PLAYERS PERFORM

The Farmington Players will perform "Don't Dress for Dinner" May 2, 7, 8 and 9 at the Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile. All performances are at 8

p.m. or 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Call 563-2955.

### SENIOR CONCERT

The Farmington Community Band will host its annual concert honoring Farmington's handi-

capped residents and senior citizens 3 p.m. today, May 2, at the William Costick Activity Center in Farmington Hills.

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If you're ready for a makeover, plan to attend our Fur Restyle Clinic May 13 and 14 at NM. We can transform yesterday's style into a fur-lined raincoat, sporty anorak, or even throw pillows. For an appointment, call the Fur Salon at (248) 643-3300, ext. 2330, before May 7.

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